Flyin’ West Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

Miss Leah, Sophie, Fannie, and Wil in Nicodemus, Kansas in the Fall of 1898. The women are on their own piece of land in which they are so proud of. Wil and Fannie are becoming closer. Miss Leah and Sophie are arguing.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

Minnie, the sister, and Frank, her husband, arrive for a visit to Nicodemus.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

This is the week that Minnie and Frank are visiting from London.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Sophie keep the land that she is so prideful about and pass the vote that goes against the spectators?

What will happen to Minnie and Frank’s relationship?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

The exposition that all of the characters know is that Sophie takes pride in her land and where she comes from and she will do anything to protect it.

The other type of exposition that only Frank knows his real intentions throughout the trip and the abuse.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment is after Minnie receives the deed to her part of the land and Frank convinces her to sign it so they can sell and they can go back to London. But he does not convince her without beating her, in which we find out immediately after a scene change.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Self-determination, sister-hood, human rights, and domestic violence.

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Sophie wants to create a better community in Nicodemus, but the white spectators are attempting to buy land. Fannie wants everybody to get along, but there is obviously a reason they aren’t.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The actual title is an image of what each of these women accomplished. They came west and established themselves as free people. Miss Leah says those words in context near the end when she is talking to Minnie trying to calm her down. Also the way that it is spelled without the g portrays the dialect of African Americans of the era.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Minnie, Sophie, and Fannie are sisters and have a bond that they share which is apparent when Sophie decides to give up part of her land which is most important to her. Miss Leah isn’t actually a part of this family, but by the end we see how she feels when she refers to Minnie’s child as her granddaughter.